



Representative Candelora and I stand behind a new crop of Little Leaguers at the April kick-off of the 2008 Little League season in North Branford. As a grandfather of 12, I always enjoy lending support to my youngest constituents.

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 12th state Senate District is ensuring Branford, Durham, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison and North Branford receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2008–2009:

	Fiscal Year 08-09
Total Education Grants	\$21,303,118
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$935,969
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$385,765
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$629,651
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$1,004,595
Total	\$24,259,098

Victory Over Broadwater

I have been an outspoken opponent of Broadwater, and we received great news when we learned that the State of New York rejected Broadwater Energy’s plan to construct a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in the middle of Long Island Sound. The Long Island Sound LNG Task Force and other public officials in Connecticut and New York raised concerns that the project would have a negative impact on the environment and public safety, would set a bad precedent by commercializing Long Island Sound, and would not guarantee lower-cost natural gas to New York. It was not clear that Connecticut would have received any natural gas from this project. Public officials throughout the Northeast must work together to address our region’s energy challenges by bringing new, additional, and alternative energy sources on line in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner.

Tougher Requirements, Education for Teen Drivers

Communities across the state are grieving over the loss of young lives in tragic automobile accidents. The General Assembly made several changes this year to help prevent fatal accidents involving teenage drivers and passengers. Teens are now required to spend more time behind-the-wheel before they can get a driver’s license, and they cannot drive with passengers under age 18, who are not immediate family, for a year. Teens will also face harsh penalties—including license suspensions—for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless driving, speeding, street racing and using a cell phone while driving. While we cannot prevent every accident, if we can save just one family from tragedy these new laws will be a success.



Dear Neighbor:

By almost any measure, the nation is in a recession, and states across America are feeling the effects. Our cost of living is escalating to unreasonable levels.

Connecticut faces these uncertain times with a biennial budget that makes investments in local schools, roads, health care, school readiness, municipal aid, criminal justice programs, and other vital needs.

However, state revenue forecasts continue to drop, and just as Connecticut’s families are tightening their belts, so must our state government. We were still able to find ways to help the people of our state by enacting long-needed reforms in our criminal justice system, health care, consumer protection, and the environment.

Much remains to be done, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ed Meyer
State Senator

Fighting the High Cost of Gasoline & Energy

We all know that the cost of fuel is sky high—affecting how much you pay for gas and groceries. While we can’t stop fuel prices from rising, we can prevent tax increases from further driving up the price. This June, we said NO to a scheduled increase in the gas tax. By blocking the tax hike we’re saving you a few cents on each gallon, and that adds up—approximately \$30 million worth of relief for motorists this year. We’re also taking action to help seniors and working families survive the high cost of the looming home heating oil season.



State Senator Ed Meyer

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represent the
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Guilford
Killingworth
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North Branford

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State Senator
Ed Meyer
12TH DISTRICT



LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Criminal Justice Reforms

Crime is an issue that has been on the minds of many state residents for several months, and the General Assembly took strong and decisive action this year on a variety of criminal justice matters. The legislature created the new crime of “home invasion,” which carries a mandatory 10-year minimum jail term, and created a full-time, professional Board of Pardons and Parole. We also approved doubling and tripling prison sentences for the most violent of criminals while simultaneously giving criminal justice professionals the \$10 million needed to enhance public safety. That money will be used to prosecute repeat offenders, track sexual offenders, hire more investigators and probation officers, and increase funding for prisoner re-entry programs.



Ethics Reform

Many of my constituents are surprised when they hear that elected officials or public employees convicted of corruption can still get their taxpayer-funded pension when they retire. This session, with my sponsorship, we passed a comprehensive, bipartisan ethics reform bill out of the Senate. Under our proposal, corrupt politicians and corrupt public employees would be subject to the revocation or reduction of their pensions, it would be illegal to be offered a bribe and not report it, and legislators would be required to attend mandatory ethics training every four years. Unfortunately, this bill did not become law during the regular legislative session.



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this coupon and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the opposite side of this mailer.

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Allowing Seniors to Receive Care at Home

Many seniors who require long-term care would prefer to receive that care in their own home or with a relative caregiver instead of in a nursing home. A federal program called ‘Money Follows the Person’ allows Medicaid funds to ‘follow the patient’ from nursing homes to more personalized settings. The state program can currently enroll 700 seniors, but we expanded the program to accommodate up to 5,000. The state’s reimbursement rate for those in the program will climb from 50 to 75 percent for each enrollee. Most seniors prefer home care when complete independence is no longer possible, and this federal/state partnership grants that wish while shoring up the state’s finances.

Grandparents & Relative Caregivers

For more than 52,000 Connecticut children, family life means living in households led by grandparents or other relatives instead of biological parents. In recognition of that trend, we passed a new law—unanimous in the House and Senate—to help eligible caregivers receive additional state assistance. We recognize that it is preferable and

healthier for children to be raised in the stable surroundings these households provide, especially after a nuclear family breaks up. Current law allows a Probate Court to qualify next-generation caregivers for one-time grants for such things as a bed, a winter coat or even summer camp. The new law grants the state Superior Court authority to make these extended families eligible for similar expenses.

Veterans Benefits

We continue to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans and military personnel from Connecticut and their families. The General Assembly approved a bill to enhance unemployment benefits for spouses if they voluntarily leave their jobs because their military spouse has been relocated. Legislation was also approved to provide additional educational opportunities for certain veterans and their families.



This spring, Congressman Joe Courtney, State Representative Deborah Heinrich and I—under the auspices of Operation Music Aid in Madison—presented a guitar to one of our state’s wounded veterans.



Global Warming Solutions

Connecticut has once again shown that it is a leader in environmental protection with the passage of a *An Act Concerning Connecticut Global Warming Solutions* that creates a timeline and targets through 2050 for the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

The new law requires Connecticut to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to at least 10 percent below 1990 levels by January 1, 2020, and to at least 80 percent below 2001 levels by January 1, 2050. It is estimated that in 1990, 45 million metric tons of greenhouse gases were emitted in Connecticut. These gases are mostly comprised of carbon dioxide, a gas which is a byproduct of burning fossil fuels. I was a prime sponsor of this bill which will reduce our reliance on Middle East oil, promote environment-friendly alternative fuels and help create a new “green” industry.

Our bipartisan state global warming solutions bill is just the latest example of Connecticut’s commitment to protecting and improving our environment for generations to come. In 2001, six New England states and several Canadian provinces agreed to a “Climate Change Action Plan” that recommended short- and long-term goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In April, Connecticut was host to more than a dozen governors from across the country at the 2008 “Conference on Climate Change.” Seventeen governors signed the Declaration on Climate Change, which seeks a federal-state partnership to develop “green” energy technologies and state-based climate action plans.

▲ MY APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR THE LEGISLATURE’S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

I was pleased to speak at the Meig’s Point Pavilion at Hammonasset State Park on the occasion of my appointment as Senate chairman of the Environment Committee. Senator Donald Williams (right) appointed me to this position, while Kiki Kennedy (left), a board member of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Save Our Sound, introduced me. Living on the shore, I have a great respect for Connecticut’s natural beauty. But that beauty and the quality of life that it provides are under attack on several fronts. I want a new day for the environment of Connecticut.

